

How they fared

GARY LESTER. This lanky goalkeeper started the season in fine style but a nagging back injury seemed to affect his form and he lacked consistency in later matches. Has not made the progress expected of him.

CHRIS WAY. The regular deputy goalkeeper, he played only a handful of first team matches, and although playing tidily, never threatened to oust Lester from the number one spot.

PAUL BIRDSEYE. Another consistent performance by the long-serving full-back and captain. Still looked one of the best right backs in the league, and ventured forward into more upfield positions than he has in the past.

GEORGE BORG. Tough aggressive left-back, whose fierce tackling and colourful language brought him ten bookings — surely a club record. Often paid the penalty for being stranded upfield, but a sound and competitive performer nonetheless.

BOB DAVIES. Back with the club after a season off, he relished his new central defensive role. Hardly ever had a bad game and used his pace to avert perilous situations. In my view, the player of the season.

STEVE HARDWICK. Departed under a cloud after being sent off in the FA Trophy tie at Cheltenham. An undoubtedly talented defender, whose attitude appeared not always to match his skill. Given a controversial free transfer to Slough, where he could not get a first-team place.

KEITH MEAD. Mr Reliable, who recovered his place in the side on Hardwick's departure. Defence looked sounder when he was playing, but told at the end of the season that at 35, his services would not be required by the first team next season.

JIMMY JACOBS. A bubbling mid-field player, who paid for being too versatile. A valuable member of the side, who scored some crucial goals.

BOB DELL. Continued to make progress as a midfield ball winner and distributor. But lack of pace and experience exposed him in certain matches, especially in the heavy going.

HOWARD KENNEDY. Missed much of the season with a leg injury, but proved to be an invaluable member of the side on his return adding experience to the midfield. Still has

a happy knack of scoring goals, and converted every penalty he took.

MICK HOLIFIELD. Back in action after a long-term injury, he once again showed his great attacking midfield skills although not consistently. Lost a little of his searing pace.

STEVE LONG. Enjoyed his best season so far for the club with a total of 18 goals. Especially sharp at the start of the season, he was a clinical finisher and formed a deadly partnership with Glynn. On Price's departure played out wide, with some success.

TERRY GLYNN. Bought for £750 from Enfield, he proved to be the bargain of the season with 29 goals in all games. A great goalscorer, particularly sharp on the turn. Lost a little of his edge later on, but a most definite plus for the side.

GARY TOLL. Never recovered the devastating form he showed at the end of the previous season. Worked hard but four goals in 31 league appearances tells its own story.

TERRY SCOTT. Returned to the club from the US at Christmas and looked particularly sharp in the closing weeks of the season, poaching many valuable goals. Trained with Sheffield Utd and lost to West German part-time football for the time-being.

TONY PRICE. Enigmatic winger, who left the club in January due to a change of job. Capable of scoring some brilliant goals, he lacks consistency. Came as a surprise when he was sent off in the FA Cup at Worcester.

KEN WILSON. Signed from Hounslow for nothing, he was Price's natural successor and produced some fine performances on the wing, when not spending much of his time on the sub's bench. Still waiting for his first league goal.

PAUL MILES. Departed at Christmas due to pressure of work, after failing to regain a regular place. Scored on his last appearance as substitute.

Among other people to leave were central defender Gary Fowles and defender Jimmy Richardson. While newcomers to make their mark were Paul West, Phil Bycroft and Simon Dexter. And Hunt and Anton Vircaus enjoyed outstanding seasons in the Reserves.